



SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

8 VASEY STREET, JERRAMUNGUP WA

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OUR REF:
ENQUIRIES: Martin Cuthbert

25 August 2019

Electoral Boundaries WA
GPO Box F316
PERTH WA 6841

RE: OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

Dear Executive Officer,

Please regard this submission as the Shire of Jerramungup's formal objection to the proposed State Electoral Boundary Changes, as detailed in the Office of the Electoral Distribution Commission report titled 2019 Proposed Boundaries, published on 26 July 2019.

At the Shire of Jerramungup's Ordinary Meeting of Council held 21 August 2019, Council resolved the following:

MOTION: OCM190809

That COUNCIL:

- 1. Formally lodge an objection to the Western Australian Distribution Commission on the proposed electoral boundary change for the Shire of Jerramungup to move from the Albany District to the Roe District;**
- 2. Supports maintaining the current State Electoral Boundaries within the South West Region.**

A copy of the report to Council is attached with this letter which advises why the Shire of Jerramungup objects to the proposed boundary changes and wishes to remain in the Albany District for future elections.

In 2015 the Commissioners provided the following commentary on the Shire of Jerramungup and its move to the Albany District:

"The Commissioners understand that residents in the Shire of Jerramungup generally regard Albany as their regional centre and as the district of Albany already includes areas where the land use is agricultural (as well as the town centre) there ought not to be any adverse community of interest implications."

Jerramungup - Bremer Bay

Progressive, Prosperous and a Premium Place to Live and Visit

In August 2015, Council lodged a submission with the WA Electoral Commission supporting the proposed new boundary move into the Albany District. Given the marginal status of the seat of Albany and the prevalence of a number of common strategic issues such as South Coast Highway, Health and Emergency Services, Port Infrastructure and Commodity Freight Routes there was great opportunities for the Shire of Jerramungup joining the Albany District.

The local community identifies with Albany and is where most people attend for services unavailable to them in Jerramungup such as: Health Services, higher Education, shopping, local grain grown is carted to Albany.

The Shire of Jerramungup believes that the decision made in 2015 has had a positive effect for the people of our Shire and urges the Commissioners to reconsider the proposal to move the Shire of Jerramungup after such a short time frame.

If you need further information or require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Cuthbert
Chief Executive Officer

9.4.4 – PROPOSED 2019 ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES OBJECTION

Location/Address:	N/A
Name of Applicant:	N/A
File Reference:	
Author:	Charmaine Solomon, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer:	Martin Cuthbert, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of any Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	13 August 2019
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Overview and Reasons – Proposed Boundaries by District and Region July 20192. 2019 WA Distribution – Process Overview3. 2019 Agricultural Region Maps4. 2019 South West Region Maps5. 2019 WA Distribution – Fact Sheet – Lodging an Objection6. Proposed Boundaries 2019 Elector Numbers
Authority/Discretion:	Advocacy

SUMMARY:

It is recommended that Council participates in the review of the State's electoral boundaries by lodging an objection to the Western Australian Distribution Commission on the proposed electoral boundary change for the Shire of Jerramungup. Written objections close 26 August 2019. Final boundaries will be published in late November 2019.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 the Commissioners provided the following commentary on the Shire of Jerramungup and its move to the Albany District:

"The Commissioners understand that residents in the Shire of Jerramungup generally regard Albany as their regional centre and as the district of Albany already includes areas where the land use is agricultural (as well as the town centre) there ought not to be any adverse community of interest implications."

In August 2015, Council lodged a submission with the WA Electoral Commission supporting the proposed new boundary move into the Albany District. Given the marginal status of the seat of Albany and the prevalence of a number of common strategic issues such as South Coast Highway, Health and Emergency Services, Port Infrastructure and Commodity Freight Routes there was great opportunities for the Shire of Jerramungup joining the Albany district.

CONSULTATION:

Nil

COMMENT:

The Electoral Act 1907 requires that the Western Australia's State Electoral boundaries be reviewed once in the life of each Parliament.

The proposed boundaries were published on Friday 26 July 2019. If the Shire wishes to lodge an objection it must be done in writing by no later than 5.00pm Monday 26 August 2019. The revised boundaries to be determined in 2019 will not take effect until the March 2021 State general election.

To balance elector numbers in Central Wheatbelt the Commissioners proposed to add the Shire of Kulin, Wickepin and Cuballing from the district of Roe. This will be balanced in turn through Roe gaining the Shire of Jerramungup from Albany under the proposed boundary change.

Under the proposal the Shire of Jerramungup will be ceded from the Albany District to the Roe District and move to the Agricultural Region from the South West Region.

In setting the boundaries for both districts and regions the Commissioners are required to take into account:

- Communities of interest
- Land use patterns
- Means of communication, means of travel and distance from Perth
- Physical features
- Existing boundaries or regions and districts
- Existing local government boundaries
- Predicted future increases or decreases in elector numbers

Council believe that in addressing the above the Shire is best suited by remaining in the Albany District.

Since the move into a marginal seat and into the Albany District we have successfully yielded desirable outcomes when lobbying for improvements to State Infrastructure and Services within the region. The Shire has fostered strong relationships with the City of Albany since the boundary move.

The Shire of Jerramungup believes it does not share a community interest with the majority of the Roe District. The Shire has worked hard to build relationships with the City of Albany, the move to the Roe District would have detrimental affects on the work the Shire has put into building the relationships with our neighbouring Council Albany. Albany is the regional hub for the Great Southern and a nationally important regional centre and destination. Albany provides opportunity for our community members to access economic, cultural and educational services and programs in the region.

The Shire of Jerramungup has formally joined with the City of Albany, Shire of Denmark and the Shire of Plantagenet to form an economic alliance called the South Coast Alliance Inc focussed on the economic development of the Lower Great Southern region.

The Alliance is focused on three pillars to deliver economic advantage to the sub-region:

- Advocacy
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Efficiency and Consistency

The 'guiding principles' for the Alliance include:

- *Always ask, 'can we do this better together?'*
- *Exercise 'co-opetition' – co-operate to compete with the rest of the world, not each other or our neighbours in the wider region or State*
- *Respect our differences and refrain from involvement in each other's governance*
- *Only act where there is a clear, net benefit, and no harm or undue risk*
- *Be open and Transparent to our communities.*

The Alliance has adopted a Strategic Plan and has a rolling 'priority action list'.

Jerramungup Shire President, Deputy President and the CEO have attended a number of these meetings.

Membership of the Alliance will provide greater political weight to the Shire's efforts at advocacy for various regional matters such as improvements to South Coast Highway, Better health services and sealing of the road to Point Anne.

The Shire of Jerramungup believes there may also be greater economic gains as well through joining future waste management solutions, joint tourism promotion and coordinated responses to future economic opportunities.

Working with the City of Albany in particular has enabled assistance through providing support for staff, additional resources and opportunities for collaboration between administrations leading to efficiencies.

The Shire of Jerramungup has also been involved in the Amazing South Coast project. The Amazing South Coast region stretches from Bremer Bay through to Walpole and up to the Stirling Range. The Amazing South Coast project has been sponsored by State Government, Local Government Authorities of Albany, Denmark, Plantagenet and Jerramungup and various local tourism organisations.

The Amazing South Coast campaign launched in January 2018, is a small part of a larger Tourism Development Strategy for the region. The broader strategy aims to strengthen and diversify the economic base of the Amazing South Coast through unified promotion and development of unique experiences. The Shire of Jerramungup is a proud partner of the Amazing South Coast project.

The Shire of Jerramungup has developed strong communities of interest with Albany with it being our nearest major town moving the Shire to Roe will have a detrimental affects and will weaken the Alliance that the Shire has worked hard to establish with Albany.

As a small rural local government we constantly rely on the support, commitment, advice and advocacy of our local member to deliver messages to the State Government on our behalf if the Shire of Jerramungup was moved to the Roe district it could have serious impacts on our voice being heard.

After supporting the change to the electoral boundaries in 2015 the Shire of Jerramungup committed to fostering solid relationships with their new political members. Council has been very successful in developing these relationships in a short amount of time and to be moved to a different district after just one election cycle means Council would be required to start this process yet again.

After serious consideration of all the benefits of remaining in the Albany District, it is strongly recommended that Council formally lodge an objection on the 2019 proposed boundary change to move the Shire of Jerramungup from the Albany District to the Roe District.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This item relates to the following component from the Shire of Jerramungup Community Plan 2016 - 2026;

Aspiration: 2.5 – Civic Leadership: To provide strong civic leadership and governance systems that are open and transparent and ethical.

Objectives: 2.5.2 – Maintain a highly accountable and transparent governance network and decision making process

Aspiration: 3.2 – Economic Diversity: To support initiatives which develop strong, diverse and resilient local businesses.

Objectives: 3.2.5 – Establish and maintain strategic partnerships with neighbouring Council's to improve services and opportunities for the community

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications for this report.

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no workforce implications for this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Policy implications do not apply to this report and it is the opinion of the author that policy development is not required.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION:

MOTION: OCM190809

MOVED: Cr Price

SECONDED: Cr Iffla

That COUNCIL:

- 1. Formally lodge an objection to the Western Australian Distribution Commission on the proposed electoral boundary change for the Shire of Jerramungup to move from the Albany District to the Roe District;**
- 2. Supports maintaining the current State Electoral Boundaries within the South West Region; and**

CARRIED: 5/0